

District VI Advisory Board
Minutes
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Monday
July 7, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge Clubroom

The District VI Advisory Board meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Recreation Center Lounge Clubroom 2700 N. Woodland. District VI councilwoman led the meeting with ten (10) District Advisory Board members in attendance, eight (8) city staff and four (4) members of the public who signed in.

Members Present

Jaya Escobar
Pat Randleas
Janet Miller
C. Bickley Foster
Charlie Claycomb
Bob Schreck
John VanWalleghen
Carol Skaff
Bob Aldrich
Marsha Carr

Members Absent

Stacie Longwell

Staff Present

Kristi McMinville, Water
Derrick Slocum, Planner
Dave McClure, Fire
Rob Raine, Finance
Officer Feurborn, Patrol North
Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Schweidthal, Patrol South
Officer Davidson, Patrol West

Guests

Listed at end

Council Member Fearey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. welcoming everyone and asked members to introduce themselves and state their representation on the board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for May 5, 2008 were approved as submitted. (**Schreck/Aldrich 10-0**)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with amendments. (**Skaff/Schreck 10-0**)

Public Agenda

1. **Scheduled items:** Ellie Shore with Spay/Neuter Kansas, Inc. CANCELLED
2. **Off-agenda items:** None

Staff Presentations

3. **Community Police Report**

Patrol West, Officer Davidson: Graffiti was reported for the blocks of 400 N. Gordon and 300 N. Meridian. Officers had the property owners sign the waiver so it could be removed. Make sure if you see graffiti please call it in. Officers did a special assignment at Sims Park due to lascivious behavior and eight arrests were made. **Aldrich** reported on Anna and Central streets you can't see on-coming traffic due to a tree blocking the view.

Patrol North, Officer Fuerborn: Beat 42 stated the Historic Midtown Citizens Association has a concern about the prostitution and larcenies for the area. This is an issue that Fuerborn will continue to work on and asked if you see any suspicious activity in the North Broadway area to please call 911 or you can email me at gfuernborn@wichita.gov. **Miller** stated she had met with Officer Mallard concerning a drug house. Officer Jerrell has been recently assigned to the 41 Beat area and is preparing to address issues once he wraps up projects from the Plainview area.

Patrol South, Larry Carlson Old Town stated larceny has increased in the area due to people leaving valuables visible in their car. The average has been 15-20 larcenies in one month. Officers plan to increase bike patrol at night and work varying hours to observe vandals. Officers have already made some arrests including a high-speed chase. We continue to place "If I were a thief flyer" on cars to make people aware to not leave their items visible. The old Flashbacks club is now Club Fusion. They have changed 90% of their staff and are serving to clients age 28-50 with a sidewalk café atmosphere. National Night Out is approaching and is scheduled for the first Tuesday in August. There will be a week-long festivity of events building up to the final night. Patrol South now has two new supervisors.

Fire Department: *Dave McClure* reported the Fire Chief would like for staff to attend DAB meetings and report what might be happening in the area so there should be someone from neighborhood stations to regularly attend the meetings from now on. *McClure* reported that dumpsters have been set on fire along 21/25th streets from Broadway/Amidon and included the #1 goal of the department is customer service. The main Fire Department number is 268-4449 and *McClure's* station number is 337-9230. **Aldrich** asked if there had been any discussion about the cost increase of fuel and some vehicles not being used during calls due to that. *McClure* responded that 75% of all calls are medical and we will continue to respond as fast as possible by sending the closest unit to the emergency. **Schreck** said he has been battling about squad trucks remaining in the stations and you will be seeing in the Eagle his editorial in two weeks pertaining to the issue. **Carr** asked if when making the monthly report they could give a percentage of fire calls or other statistics. **Fearey** said maybe they could report about one station in the district each month.

***** **Action:** Receive and file

New Business

4. Water Utilities 2008-09 Proposed Rate Structure

Kristi McMinnville Customer Service Manager, Water Utilities, presented information on the proposal to increase the water utilities rates, which is necessary to fund current and future system improvements. *McMinnville* discussed the history of the water supply, the ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) project, how rainfall affects water purchasing which affects rate structure, and the importance of maintaining the debt-service ratio. Also discussed were the following recommendations for water rate increases which are: 2008- add \$1.00 to the base charge. 2009-adjust block 1 and 2 rates by \$0.29 and \$1.28 respectively. 2010- 2012- across the board increase of 8%.

Aldrich asked what percentage of water/sewer mains need to be repaired? *McMinnville* responded she didn't know but could get information later.

VanWalleghen asked if there is an increase over a certain number of years what the accumulative percentage increase is. Response was it would be a 43% increase over 4 years equaling to about \$14 a year.

Schreck stated he was against the ASR increase but is now impressed with it. We're told to save and conserve water but then

we're told to use more water to make money, it's confusing. **Schreck** asked if there had been discussion about gray water. *McMinnville* stated gray water had been discussed but not a lot. Gray water would need a duplicate system and could be used by manufacturing companies only.

Skaff asked when the last rate increase was and is it done annually? The last increase was Jan. 1, 2008. **Skaff** continued what happens if it's a dry summer and not much rain, do rates go down?

Carr asked if people who build outside of Wichita pay different rates than those who live in Wichita.

Miller asked if the increase in revenue is based on usage staying the same. *McMinnville* responded all aspects are reviewed when we look at this.

Skaff asked about Blocks 2 and 3 what the factors for a larger increase are. *McMinnville* stated it depends on the usage review done in the winter months.

Foster asked if Andover and Douglas were also being considered for the increase.

Schreck asked if the city will consider splitting Block 1 for fixed income residents. Response was there could be some consideration.

Miller asked if there were any alternatives being looked at for storm water management and if it is being reviewed as a community to lower the cost of infrastructure? **McMinnville** responded she was not aware if this was being considered.

Fearey stated that storm water is not under the Water Utilities but is part of the Public Works department.

*******Action:** The District Advisory Board provided comment on the rate stabilization and revenue adjustment proposals.

5. **ZON2008-00035**

Derrick Slocum, Planner presented the case background on a zone change from SF-5 Single-family Residential ("SF-5") to B Multi-family Residential ("B") and reviewed the staff recommendation with members and the public. Generally located southeast of the intersection of North Arkansas Avenue and 37th Street North. The members were provided the MAPD staff report for review prior to the meeting.

Derrick Slocum stated he had not received any calls from residents about this case. **Member Randleas** stated the public was not aware of this case as there was no sign posted or letters of notification sent to the neighborhood. There was no representative for the applicant present.

DAB concerns included: 1) no sign notification; 2) how large a radius is notified of the zone change request; 3) where is the access off of Arkansas Avenue; 4) will this be connected to the apartments in back of this location; 5) no drawing of the request submitted; 6) what would be the maximum number of units and 7) concern on issues such as flooding and drainage.

***** **Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend to the City Council to defer the case (**10-0 VanWalleghen/Schreck**) until the July 16th DAB meeting for neighbors to have a chance to hear from the applicant. **Councilmember Fearey** asked **Randleas** to help notify neighbors about the case so they could meet with the applicant.

6. **Proposal to shift City taxes: lower the property tax and increase the sales tax**

Rob Raine, Finance Department, presented information on a possible sales tax plan. The City of Wichita currently is financed in part by \$100 million annually generated from the property tax. The City does not currently have a city-only sales tax. The City does receive around \$50 million annually as a share of the County-wide sales tax approved by voters in 1985. Staff has developed a concept that could allow the property tax mill levy to be reduced from the present 32 mills to as low as 15 mills (a reduction of 17 mills). A proposed city-wide one cent sales tax would be used to offset the revenue lost. The proposed concept is designed to be revenue neutral: increases in sales tax collections would be used to offset reductions in the property tax revenue.

Aldrich commented for people who live on a fixed income and with the cost of fuel at present, food, fuel for the winter weather, taxi cab and water utilities increases now is not the time to increase sales tax for those who are already struggling. **Raine** responded this would be a shift in dollars. **Aldrich** said what guarantee do we have that the mill levy will not be increased? **Raine** responded with Kansas sales tax on food and pharmaceutical will help remove volatility.

VanWalleghen stated what impact will this have on Convention Visitors Bureau with people coming in or how hard will it be to finance another capital project?

Carr asked how much the arena tax effected them. None.

Schreck stated he had no complaints about the sales tax but was concerned that the Mill levy would increase.

Escobar stated she is single and has to pay a lot of taxes. I'm in support of this.

Miller said those who benefit will be property owners and what percentage are property owners? Response was 75%.

VanWalleghen stated I know how much I pay in property tax but I don't know how much sales tax is for services.

Skaff asked so you're also talking about business owners? Does this work in favor of a particular income bracket? **Raine** responded it can be the same until you get to a higher income bracket.

Raine finished saying maybe food purchased at the store could be exempted but that would have to take the State to determine this legislative action.

***** **Action:** The District Advisory Board received and filed the presentation.

Board Agenda

7. Problem Properties

- **331 N. Mosley:** Broken window - Kamen building- looking blighted.
- **3400 N. St. Francis:** Campbell Property Axix Metal is processing scrap and the business has a protective overlay for not processing scrap and they are not in compliance.
- **Kansas Can:** processing scrap
- **29th Emporia:** Zoned for scrap. Large amount of materials. OCI is aware of this but not doing anything. There is much opposition from the businesses in the Bridgeport area due to this.
- **3645 Armstrong:** continues to be a problem with all the trash.
- **33rd/Fairview:** High weeds

*******Action:** Receive and propose appropriate action.

8. Neighborhood Reports

Carr thanked the neighborhood assistant for helping in reporting graffiti at her place of business.

There was mention that along 29th Street N. someone was opening mailboxes to see what they could get out of them (people are trying to steal checks). If you see that someone is doing this contact 911 immediately. If possible try and get a license plate number of the vehicle.

***** **Action:** Receive and file.

Updates from the Councilmember

Announcements

- **Next DAB meeting will be held on Wednesday – July 16, 2008**

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Guests

Leslie Hicks	2230 Cardinal Dr. Benjamin Hills
Leonard Hicks	2230 Cardinal Dr. Benjamin Hills Bridgeport Area Business Association
Christine Eberle	1814 Joann Wichita, KS. 67203 N.W. Big River NA
Jennifer Despain	1947 N. Market Wichita Ks. 67214 Midtown jenn.despain@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant